

## John Clark to Andrew Jackson, August 18, 1819, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

### JOHN CLARK TO JACKSON.

Woodville near Milledgeville, August 18, 1819.

*Dear Sir* . . . . I am unable to satisfy you more particularly at present concerning the “division of the Cabinet”. Perhaps however I did not State that I observed to the Editor (Fleming Grantland) shortly after the paper appeared that contained the remarks, that he derived his information from Crawford or from Cobb which was the same thing, Grantland Laughed and made no reply. Some time after I mentioned this circumstance to Doctor Thomas Moore who is a Gentleman of unquestioned veracity and respectability and brother in law of Grantlands, when he informed me as mentioned in my letter. I have been waiting to see Doct Moore who lives at some distance and has been expected at Milledgeville for some time, Should he not be here soon I will go and see him, when perhaps something further may be made appear.<sup>1</sup> The intelligence be it true or false I have no doubt came from Wm. H. Crawford. It would have sprung from no other source—that is to say it must have come from him directly or indirectly to the Editor of the Journal.

1 Nov. 2, 1819, Clark sent Jackson the following statement by Dr. Thomas Moore:

“I do certify that I was in Milledgeville in August 1818. and continued with Mr. Fleming Grantland, then one of the Editors of the Georgia Journal for some days, during my stay with him, say on the 16. of August 1818. William H. Crawford and Thomas W. Cobb spent the evening with Mr. Grantland. The next day Mr. Grantland and myself entered into conversation relative to General Jackson, he then mentioned the division of the Cabinet,

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and stated he had it from one of those Gentlemen, and I am rather under the impression, he mentioned it was from William H. Crawford. This division as I understood was equal on the question as to the propriety of arresting General Jackson for his conduct in the Seminole War. Thos. Moore.

“True copy from the Original in my possession this 2nd Nov. 1819.— John Clark.”

Majr, Woodward whom you mention derived his information respecting the introduction of Africans from an Uncle of his Capt. Joseph Howard, who no doubt when called on will confirm what the major has said upon the subject. Howard resides in the Alabama Territory. Woodward says that he was applied to by his Uncle to go and bring Africans from Amelia Island for Mitchell who was to advance the money to buy them with. He also says that an Indian by the name of Tabbler (that speaks good English) of the Cusata Tribe informed him that Mitchell sent him with Bowen for the negroes to Amelia Island and that Mitchell paid him for going and told him to say nothing about it. There are men here that saw Tabbler with the negros on their way up. Let this matter be investigated as it should be; let those persons who I could name be compelled to disclose what they know and there is no doubt in my mind but Mitchells guilt will be established. Circumstances are not so plain against Crawford, but he was not so immediate an Actor and therefore less liable to detection, however I have from the first believed him to have been concerned.

In my former letter I mentioned that the Vice President of the Colonizing Society at Washington Wm. H Crawford recommended the sale of certain Africans here. I am since informed by a Gentleman of standing that Crawford informed him that “he did advise Governor Rabun to sell them and that he did not believe they could have been sold but for such advise.” The last that were Advertised for sale by the Governor (which was of the same drove with the others taken from the Agency) he (Mr Crawford) informed the Colonizing Society of their being advertised, who sends on an Agent and stops the sale, which he (Crawford) could have done of the others if he would. I mention those

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circumstances only by way of showing the hypocrisy of this man. I expect they will now contrive it so as to get the money for the first negroes that were sold. . . .

P. S. You are at liberty to make what use of my letters your discretion may dictate.

P. S. Capt, Kizer (who you I presume know as he belongs to the Army) informed me not long since, that Mitchell told him when he was proffering to sell him two or three negroes some time before the Africans was taken to the Agency "that he asked too high for them, that he could get them at Amelia Island for one hundred and fifty dollars when he (Kizer) replied that would be violating or infringing the laws. Mitchell then observed that he could have them kept or covered in the nation so as to run no risque".